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Aug. 25th 1772 William Halsey of Barnett Hertfordshire Æta. 28 ask'd advice concerning a disorder on his head. I found the tegument on the left side, elevated by a tumefaction of the subjacent parts, from the Linea frontis to the ear & from the lambdoid suture to the supercilliary Ridge, & from thence continued downwards parallel the Ala Nasi in form of a pouch, entirely covering, and closing up the left eye

The upper, and most prominent part of the Swelling, appear'd pale, white, & shining, from the great distention of the skin; the surrounding, variegated pale red & yellow with the cutaneous veins enlarg'd and discolour'd as in the Sarcinoma.

Notwithstanding the magnitude and frightfull aspect of this tumor he never felt any pain or uneasiness from the first, except some little prickings and dartings when his head was held down or inclin'd to either side

The substance of this tumor as perceptible to the touch was unequally solid, like that of an occult cancer, & its greatest thickness about three Inches on the upper part of the Os Frontis, where it was most prominent. As he had always enjoy'd a good share of health and had not received an injury of any kind on his head no cause could be assign'd for this disorder.

Having requested the favor of J. Hunters inspection, his opinion then was "that the disorder was within the Skull as well as without "& that the bone was exceedingly diseas'd but thought the most singular "circumstance was, he had had no pain in his head."

The first intimation he had of it, was about two years ago when he perceiv'd a swelling on the posterior part of the left parietal bone about the size of a Pidgeons egg for as it gave him no uneas= =iness he did not notice it before when asking advice and some topical applications being prescrib'd without effect & finding no inconvenience he neglected it for a year and half when another swelling began upon the superior part of the left side of the Os frontis he was then admit= =ted into Bartholomews Hospital where he remain'd a fortnight, but as the case was obscure and no indication presented itself, he re= =turn'd into the Country, visiting the hospital occasionally for three months, during which time the swellings increas'd very fast

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& nearly approach'd, but as yet were separated by a depression of the skin; Some were for making an incision to the bone but the majority being against it, he was discharg'd; & next made his application to St Georges Hospital, where the propriety of an incision being debated & discarded he was dismiss'd after a stay of three days. After this he return'd home & work'd at his business (as bricklayer) for three weeks, when the two swellings became uniform, covering the whole left side of the head & closing up the Eye. From this time many different persons of the faculty were consulted, and lastly myself. While I was examining him he fell into a fainting fit with Convulsions, but soon recover'd.

I apprehended the skull was diseas'd, & that if nature had any disposition towards exfoliation, it could never take place, whilst the tegumenta so exceedingly thickned, lay upon, & confin'd the diseased bone and being of opinion that the ~~disease~~ case if left to itself would prove mortal, I resolv'd upon the large exposition of the Caries; for which purpose (as this could not be accomplish'd by a simple incision & a dangerous hæmorrhage might be expected from a larger Operation) I first applied
aug 28 1772 the common Caustic, which caus'd an Eschar near the size of a half crown thro this I introduc'd into the substance of the tumor three small arsenical bougies in different directions; these occasion'd a dull constant pain about a fortnight; in three days after this part of the swelling was greatly diminished, & in three weeks the Eschar began to seperate, but could not detach itself from the bone, by reason of a number of osseous branches which shot themselves for an Inch, more or less into the substance of the flesh, rendring a little force & the Knife necessary to effect its entire seperation. This Eschar tho much wasted was about three Inches broad, & near two in thickness, & fill'd with the broken Spiculæ, a very large, fœtid, Ichor discharg'd itself, with a little laudable pus adhering to the dressings. As he continu'd this process well, & the swelling was greatly diminish'd thereby, I pursued the same plan with the anterior portion of the tumor which had now made a rapid progress over the eye & down the cheek

in a fortnight this Eschar began to seperate & was compleated in nearly the same time, and manner as the former, being like that full of craggy spicula. The skull being now largely expos'd appear'd to be perforated by foramina of different shapes & sizes, between which Ridges, Processes, Branches, & filaments arose, from within outwardly, the highest of which were broken off and remain in the seperated Eschar.

By this Production, which resembled a vegetation of the Bone, it appear'd that what was lost one way, was gaind another, so that tho the natural form of the bone was exceedingly chang'd and transform'd, its quantum remaind the same. He now frequently complain'd of a violent pain in his scull & had severall little attacks of fever, in the intermission of which he took the Bark. Pulse remarkably small and quick, with a stupid kind of Delirium, that continued some days. After he had recover'd his understanding, he one day fell into a fit whilst dressing, and was somewhat convuls'd, but it soon went off. He alter'd so much in a few days, that he said he was as well as ever he was in his life; his head continued to discharge very plentifully but the Edges of the wounds and the surrounding tegument encreas'd in thickness exceedingly exactly resembling the appearance of a large Ulcerated Cancer. As there was now no reason to expect an exfoliation in this case he went into the country (Barnett) with rules for dressing, so as to kep the part as clean as possible, from whence he occasionally came once, or sometimes twice a week, in good spirits & seeming health, often saying he was as hearty as a Buck. At length his legs and Belly were swell'd to an enormous size and so continued till his death; which happned on the 9th March 1773. He retain'd his senses perfectly to the last.

The head being open'd after death by a lateral semisection by means of the direction of the sagittal suture, above, & from the base of the Os Frontis to the Occiput, thro the Os temporis below, the right Hemisphere of the brain appear'd to be sound but in the left, two abcesses were found, each containing about the quantity of a spoonfull of matter, with proportionable cavities, situate under the part where the swellings first came, the dura mater protruded itself in these places, thro two apertures one in

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the Os frontis, near its connection with the parietal, the other nearly in the Centre of the parietal bone, whence a quantity of matter was constantly discharg'd after the seperation of the Eschar; The dura mater adher'd firmly to the inner surface of the orbitar proces of the Os frontis, Os a temporis & Parietal upon seperating this membrane found it adher'd to a pungus arising from the whole of the diseas'd part of the bone (exactly in colour and texture resembling that which occupied the external surface) the same kind of bony spicula shooting into it tho not so large as on the outside. The disease of the bone had extended farther, and its growth was much greater without than within. The inner and outer surface of the Os temporis had grown much more than ~~the~~ any other part of it. The Diploe entirely wanting and the tables in many places quite seperate, in others they were united by a most curious network or entanglement of fibres in some parts there was a total destruction and in others no resemblance of its original structure remaind. —

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It is now more than twenty Years since a Person from Ireland who call'd himself Dr. Plunkett, acquir'd considerable reputation, by extracting schirrous tumors of the breast, and other parts, by a slow caustic, without the assistance of the knife. After a serious of time, this medicine, with its peculiar mode of application, was purchas'd, for a pecuniary consideration, by M.r Guy, a regular surgeon of this City, the purchaser, as well as the original practitioner, endeavour'd, by various arts, to conceal the composition, imposing it upon the publick for some innocent vegetable, whose Juice was peculiarly, and specifically ~~lighter~~ active upon a true cancer only, that is it would not act on any other diseas'd part but what was truly cancerous.

Such great, and important, Effects, in so melancholly and often incurable a disorder, could not but excite attention, the result of which was that the Eschar produc'd thereby was deeper than that by any known caustic That it was at the choice of the operator whether it should be large and deep, or small and shallow; that the pain it occasion'd, was for many days in the former, and two or more in the latter. that it requir'd nearly the same time for its seperation as it did for its action.

It is sufficiently apparent how much such pretensions once credited must tend to establish an imposture. for whatever disorder the medicine acted upon was of course a cancer, because the caustic would not act on any other.

But time which discovers truth prov'd that such as were truly cancerous degenerated and became mortal, whilst those, who obtain'd a perfect cure, began to suspect they had been impos'd upon, and so in fact, it prov'd, upon a critical examination of a great number of cases (that had been treated with this medicine and publish'd under the name of Cancers) such as common Indurations, obstructions, &c.

From the peculiar appearance of the Eschar, produced by this caustic, its dissimilarity to all others and the incapacity of those in common use, to make so deep a destruction, and from my own experience of Arsenic I was convinc'd that no such Effect could possibly be obtain'd by any other substance in nature.

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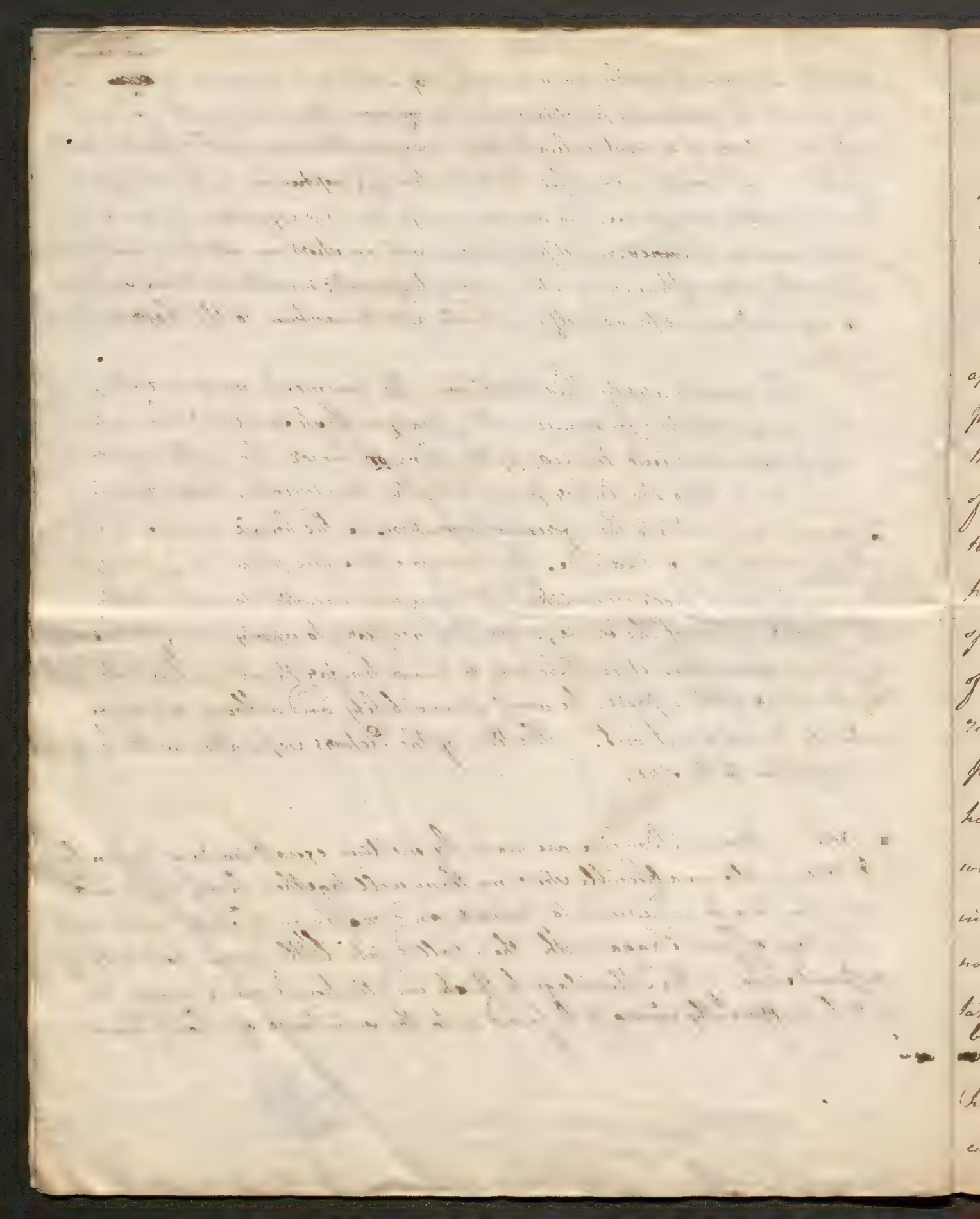
And tho I was sufficiently convinc'd so highly acrid, and poisonous a ~~[illegible]~~ must in general be extremely pernicious upon a cancerous ulcer and habit. I could not but conclude it a most valuable topic in some other cases and different habits of body. I therefore us'd it for the destruction of Scrophulous indurated glands, in sarcomatous excrescences, and tumors, and for the large exposition of carious bones when cover'd by thickned, and diseas'd teguments, in short in all those instances where the action of known caustics, were insufficient; in which it has succeeded to my wishes, and prov'd itself a valuable additamentum to the Materia Chirurgica.

In order to apply this Medicine the teguments are to be destroy'd by the common caustic (for arsenic will act only on flesh so call'd) then a probe is to be introduc'd into the body of the gland or tumor the depth requir'd to be destroy'd; thro the Eschar produc'd by the Com. caustic, then a bougie of * arsenic to be put into the aforesaid perforation. as the bougie dissolves it destroys all the parts so far as it extends. this medicine has one peculiar property, in that the Eschar it produces (unlike that by any other caustic) does not at all impede the further action of the same, when it is necessary to apply more, for the sake of greater destruction. it will be easy to know how far the action has extended by piercing with a probe, the want of sensibility, and a bloody discharge, plainly pointing it out. The time of the Eschars seperation will be in in proportion to its size.

* Note - Arsenic Bougies are made by melting equall parts of Antim. Crud. & Arsenic. Alb. in a crucible stirring them well together, being mix'd and cold, they are to be reduc'd to powder, and made in to a stiff paste with Mucilage of Gum Tragacanth. then roll'd into little pyramidal tents of different sizes. if the Mucilage be thick and the points made sharp, they will be sufficiently strong to be forc'd into the substance of a hard tumor.



Case. Mr. Munday Butcher in Cannon Street had a large indurated swelling upon the Tibia of his left leg. attended with excruciating pain in the bone particularly of nights, whereby he had been rendered incapable of following his business, for several months, and was wasted almost to a Skeleton. his wife to whom he had been married several Years, was in perfect health, altho there was reason to suspect the origin disorder of this disorder Venereal — —

In this case an Incision was made the extent of the tumor to the bone, but no appearance of diminution of the part or laudable digestion taking place, the pulv. Arsenicus Compositus (viz Ars. & Ant. as in the Note) was sprinkled upon the thickned Membranes, ~~[illegible]~~ not only for the destruction of the diseased part but for the large exposition of the bone, which was imagined to be carious; the first application continued to act upon the part and gave pretty much pain for three or four days, it was then thought necessary to sprinkle on some more, this in the space of a week compleated the destruction of the morbid teguments, when the Eschar was seperated the bone was found to be rough, and had a number of holes that would admit the point of the tent probe, notwithstanding which the wound soon got into good condition and heal'd a great pace, expecting exfoliation to take place even yet, the wound was kept open as an Issue, with peas, under the patients own management. in a little time however these were omitted, and the sore cicatrized, and is now (being better than a twelvemonth since) perfectly well; no seperation of bone having taken place — — — During the first fortnight of his confinement he had but little rest, having very deprecated and violent pains in his arms, legs & head, besides that occasioned by the Chirurgical treatment, it was not expected he could long survive, but having taken some time before, and renewing again

under his present confinement, small doses of Calomell as an alterative, with an addition of the Sarsparilla Decoction and Milk for his sole nourishment he very soon began to mend, and in less than a month after this period he got perfectly free of a most despicated, chronic, venereal, Rheumatism, that had afflicted him a great number of Years. he is now Jolly and perfectly hearty - in health and Spirits. ——

Amongst many others the following disorders were cured with this medicine. A large indurated tumor in Perinæo, the size of a very large pear, that no one would venture to seperate with the Knife, the common caustic was first applied to the teguments, and then the tumor pierc'd with the arsenic tents. —— ——

Verrucæ in the meatus Vaginæ, in number and magnitude so great as to resemble a middling sized cawliflower, after repeated mercurial courses, cuttings, caustics, &c, were cur'd by the Pulvis Arsenicus made into a soft paste with oil, and applied with a pencil brush, every day till they were found in a dead and mortified state, by piercing them occasionally with the probe. ——

A very large fungus, from a sore on the Leg, was cured at the last.
A very large Gland under the Chin was remov'd by the Tents. ——
a number more cases might be mention'd, but these it is presum'd will be thought sufficient to establish the utility of this Medicine in Surgery ——

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1re Observation sur une tumeur fungueuse de la dure mere qui occupoit toute la partie gauche de la tete.

2e observations sur l'usage d'un caustique particulier pour detruire les tumeurs fibreuses.

par Mr. Watten membre du college des chirurgiens de Londres.

a Londres.